

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

June 3, 2003

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FROM: JAMES A. FELTEN, Public Health Programs Administrator
Department of Public Health

**SUBJECT: AGREEMENT WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR
BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve agreement with the State Department of Health Services in the amount of \$2,144,969 for the Local Public Health Preparedness and Response to Bioterrorism Program for the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Approval of this agreement allows the Public Health Department to receive \$2,144,969 for bioterrorism preparedness in accordance with the application approved by the Board on November 22, 2002.

The bioterrorism preparedness funds are directed towards seven focus areas:

- Focus Area A: Preparedness Planning and Readiness Assessment
- Focus Area B: Surveillance and Epidemiologic Capacity
- Focus Area C: Laboratory Capacity-Biologic Agents
- Focus Area D: Laboratory Capacity Chemical Agents
- Focus Area E: Health Alert Network/Communications/Information Technology
- Focus Area F: Risk Communication and Health Information Dissemination
- Focus Area G: Education and Training

On November 22, 2002 the Board of Supervisors approved the application to the State for the Local Public Health Preparedness and Response to Bioterrorism Program. That application included a substantial 103-page plan to the State covering the focus areas listed above. After review and minor modification by the State, the department's application was approved.

The department received the agreement from the State on May 5, 2003. This agreement is coming late in the year as a result of the ongoing negotiation between the State and the counties regarding approval of the plans. This late approval does not present a problem because there is a provision to roll over unused funds to later periods and the department has included the estimated roll forward amount in its 2003-04 budget. To date, the department has incurred expenses relating to equipment purchases, staff time, and implementation of the smallpox vaccination plan. Currently, positions related to this project are vacant due the time required to establish appropriate position classifications and the subsequent county hiring freeze. However, the positions are included in the department's FY 2003-04 proposed budget.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Charles Larkin, Deputy County Counsel) on May 22, 2003. This item has also been reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Beatriz Valdez, Administrative Analyst) on May 23, 2003.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT: Revenues and expenses associated with the bio-terrorism plan have been included in the department's FY 2002/03 and 2003/04 budgets. There is no local cost associated with this item.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends approval as it will impose no additional cost to the County.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: James A. Felten, Public Health Programs Administrator, (909) 387-9146